

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 24, 2004

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 154**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Matthews**

January 12, 2004

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 154—Relative to Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 154, as amended, Matthews. Elder and dependent adult abuse.

This measure would proclaim the month of May ~~2004~~, as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Elder and dependent adult abuse is a serious and  
2 growing problem throughout California; and

3 WHEREAS, Elder and dependent adult abuse is a crime that is  
4 indiscriminate in choosing whom it strikes, and factors such as  
5 one's socioeconomic status, gender, race, ethnicity, educational  
6 background, and geographic location do not provide an  
7 impregnable barrier against its broad, horrible reach; and

8 WHEREAS, Nearly 225,000 Californians are victims of elder  
9 and dependent adult abuse every year, including neglect and  
10 physical, psychological, emotional, and financial abuse; and

11 WHEREAS, The United States General Accounting Office has  
12 found that one in three California nursing homes was cited for  
13 having serious or life-threatening care problems; and

1 WHEREAS, Victimization levels promise to significantly  
2 increase, as the United States Census Bureau projects that  
3 California’s elderly population will nearly double in the next 20  
4 years, from 3.7 million to over 6.4 million; and

5 WHEREAS, It has been estimated that only one in five cases of  
6 elder and dependent adult abuse is reported because the victims are  
7 ashamed, helpless, or afraid of the abuser; and

8 WHEREAS, Recognizing suspected elder and dependent adult  
9 abuse through increased awareness is the first step toward the  
10 prevention of this type of abuse; and

11 WHEREAS, Elder and dependent adults are deserving of  
12 special consideration and protection, not unlike the special  
13 protections provided for minor children, because they are a  
14 vulnerable population that is often targeted by criminal predators;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Elder and dependent adults have the right to live  
17 safely, whether in their homes or in health care facilities, and to  
18 enjoy an optimum quality of life, while being protected from all  
19 forms of abuse; and

20 WHEREAS, Private citizens and public agencies must work  
21 both independently and collaboratively to combat crime and  
22 violence against elder and dependent adults; and

23 WHEREAS, The State of California has the responsibility to  
24 ensure that our “Greatest Generation,” that has given us so much,  
25 can live their lives with the dignity and respect they deserve; now,  
26 therefore, be it

27 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
28 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the month of  
29 May ~~2004~~, as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness  
30 Month; and be it further

31 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
32 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

